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PURE IMAGINATION...

CANDY DREAMS COME ALIVE DURING 'WILLY WONKA'

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PHOTO OF WONKA TAKING THE CHILDREN ON A JOURNEY DURING THERE'S NO KNOWING BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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Village Council discusses outdoor dining, approves new annual rental fee

BY THERESE DONNELLY

Outdoor dining will be back on Elm Street this spring, with a new location and new fees, for Three Oaks restaurant owners.

The Three Oaks Village Council approved a new annual rental fee and approved a lease to Oaks Eatery at their meeting Wednesday, Marh 13.

The Downtown Development Authority recommended the council increase the annual patio rent to from $300 to $1,000. Business owner Colleen Froehlich , who rents one of the patios for her Elm Street business, told the council increasing the cost by more than triple was too drastic. She also reminded the council she had previously paid for repairs on the patios. Councilmembers agreed the increase was too large and instead voted to set the rent at $500.

The Downtown Development Authority recommended the council increase the annual patio rent to from $300 to $1,000. Business owner Colleen Froehlich , who rents one of the patios for her Elm Street business, told the council increasing the cost by more than triple was too drastic. She also reminded the council she had previously paid for repairs on the patios. Councilmembers agreed the increase was too large and instead voted to set the rent at $500.

One of the patios had been used by Viola's at 102 North Elm Street, but the patio became available after the business permanently closed. Tom Pauly of the DDA told the council a procedure is needed to determine future patio rentals, including an application process.

The council approved Rodrigo Abarca's request for the available patio at his restaurant Oaks Eatery at 8 S. Elm Street.

The council also approved an increase to the rubbish removal agreement. Councilmember Lois Jones noted the increase is in the contract.

No decision has been made on the proposed golf cart ordinance, as the issue was tabled until the council's April meeting. Resident Mike Holfels questioned the delay, pointing out the ordinance has already been tabled once. Roberts Rules of Order state if a motion is tabled and is not removed from the table by the end of the next meeting, it is dead.

Councilmember Dennis Wojtczak said there needs to be an effort to identify the source of black water in homes along a section of Chestnut Street. He wondered if there's a low point in the water line, where matter accumulates until it's disturbed and washed into residences.

Village manager Dan Faulkner said hydrants are flushed two or three times each year. He also said he spoke with contractors to place sample filters on the line.

Wojtczak also said he wanted to look into replacing the front doors at village hall. The doors at the historical building open inwards towards into a small vestibule. Wojtczak said the building is not on the historical register, so replacing the doors with outward-swinging doors will not be difficult. No representative from Wightman and Associates was able to attend the March meeting to discuss the design and EGLE permit applications for water main replacement work, so discussion on the matter was tabled until the April council meeting.

The council did approve an agreement with Amtrak to establish a $52,901 escrow account for the design phase of the Hickory Street Bridge project. Faulkner said the account will pay for the review of plans and any unused funds will be returned to the village.

Flag Day weekend plans are underway and the council approved request to close a section of Oak and Linden streets for an outdoor market, and to temporarily lift noise ordinance so live music can play at the Amerian Legion Hall until 1 a.m. on Saturday, June 15.

Village President Richard Smith said tentative discussions of combining community emergency services has dissolved after it was determined a feasibility study would cost each of the four interested communities $16,000.

When you do "wrong" to man, you may escape punishment or notice, but you don't escape "Fear" of punishment.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

New Buffalo Township approves moratorium on marijuana establishments

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The New Buffalo Township Board adopted an ordinance imposing a 12-month moratorium on medical and adult-use marihuana establishments applications, approvals and licenses at a special Thursday, March 14, meeting.

Board members were acting on the recommendation of the Planning Commission, which had held a special meeting the previous night.

Per the ordinance language, the moratorium doesn't apply to any medical marihuana facilities or adult-use marihuana establishments that have submitted applications, including partial applications without site plans, to the township on or before March 18 at 4 p.m. Applicants that had submitted applications on or before March 18 that were deemed incomplete by the township may supplement the application until 4 p.m. Monday, June 3.

The concern lay with the lengthy turnaround time for the site plan that must be drawn up by an engineer, which is part of the application process.

At Thursday's meeting, Estelle Brinkman, the building and zoning administrator, said that the township currently has 45 applications.

Rather than have the ordinance take effect that day, trustee Pete Rahm said that they should give the public a few more days to get their applications in.

"I understand the public's concern about a lot of dispensaries, we knew that was coming - maybe not this many, it's a small township - but again, that's just my feeling, I think we need to allow the weekend for anybody who can find any property left in New Buffalo Township," he said.

Trustee Patty Iazzetto, who also sits on the Planning Commission, said that they want to ensure they're "doing the right process for everybody."

"Thank you for investing in our community and we hope we can keep this community as beautiful as it is and just being able to work together and know that, with a year-long moratorium, we'll be able to fine tune the ordinance that we wrote and go through it and hopefully we will see you all at the meeting that we have to give your voice about the ordinances," she said.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that the township board approved having marijuana establishment within the township for a reason.

"We wanted to see development in the area and we are seeing it - we're happy to have all of you, we really are," she said.

Heit said that hearing from so many local people who will be impacted "by moving so quickly" was helpful.

In the public comments at the beginning of the meeting, Mark Smith of Green Door Dispensaries said that he would have sped up his application process had he known there was a "sense of urgency."

"We were taking our time to make sure we had our due diligence done and our i's were dotted and our t's were crossed... We chose to go slow because we didn't know," he said.

Don Farina said that some of the concerns that were raised at the Planning Commission meeting over the current establishment that's open now include traffic congestion, parking issues and the appearance of the building.

He said it appears that, from their conversations, everyone else in the room who wants to open an establishment is "completely innocent" of these violations and should be given more "leeway in this process."

"Twelve months seems to be much too long than necessary - I think what you plan to do is revise your ordinance so it's got some teeth," he said, adding that, when the township has its enforcement in place, it'll have enough money from the businesses that are coming in to hire enforcement officers to ensure the rules are followed.

Lindsay Kennedy said she's concerned with residents who've "been working on these deals for months and they've made plans for their lives according to these deals that are happening."

"I hope that you consider letting people that are under contract already go forward with their plans and consider the effect it will have on the lives of our residents," she said.

Resident Ed Dehne, who owns property on M-239 that's currently under contract, said that he's owned New Buffalo Marine Service for 35 years; however, he's now "getting to the point where I've gotta think about my later years in life."

"With this opportunity, I can reinvest some money in the community in a different way and work another job that's not as taxing on me...I have no intention of leaving the community, I have intention of reinvesting the money that comes from it into the community and I just want to let everyone know i'm against the moratorium 100%," he said.

Rare as is true love, true friendship is rarer. *— Jean de La Fontaine*

LAKESIDE EASTER EGG HUNT NEXT WEEKEND

Join the Lakeside Association for its popular Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 30.

Everyone will gather shortly before 1 p.m. at Lakeside Park (Lakeside Road and Red Arrow Highway) next to the gazebo. Separate egg hunts will be organized by age: 4 years and under; 5 to 7 years; 8 to 10 years and over 11 years. The bunny generously delivers many eggs, so bring a basket for snatching up these treats. There will be prizes and fun activities for all. Don't forget to grab a phone or camera to get some great pictures. — STAFF REPORTS

HIKERS PLAN MARCH 30 EVENT AT TOWER HILL CAMP

The Harbor Country Hikers will walk the woods of Tower Hill Camp in Sawyer and explore a nearby beach during a Saturday, March 30, hike.

The event starts at 1 p.m. and is expected to last a little over two hours.

Tower Hill Woods is a 32-acre protected area within Tower Hill Camp's property with trails that meander over and around ancient dunes. The trails are bordered by planted and native flora. Hike leader and Hikers President Pat Fisher calls the protected area "the best nature has to offer." Fisher will start the hike with a brief talk about how local fauna survives the winter and prepares for spring.

Those who attend are urged to dress for the weather, wear a warm cap and sturdy shoes or boots, and bring plenty of water. The 2- or 2.5-mile hike is rated moderately physically difficult. All are welcome to attend. For more information, including driving directions to Tower Hill, log onto the Hikers' website, harborcountryhikers.com, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

Council takes no action on request to vacate portions of city streets

BY THERESE DONNELLY

As part of the Monday, March 18, regular meeting, the New Buffalo City Council held a public hearing regarding a request to vacate platted portions of East Michigan, Virginia and Rose streets on the west end of the city; however, no action will be taken at this time.

The request is part of a plan to develop the land between Bell Avenue and Diamond Point. City manager Darwin Watson explained to the council that the Planning Commission will need to review a site plan, but prospective developers wanted to know if the streets could be vacated before making those plans.

During public comment, Berrien County Commissioner Alex Ott spoke to the council about efforts to challenge the recently passed bill removing municipalities' ability to allow solar and wind utilities. Mayor John Humphrey said the push against the legislation was almost unanimous from municipalities and counties throughout the state.

At the same meeting, the council approved the New Buffalo Business Association's special event application to hold a weekly farmers market from May to September. NBBA member Ben Smock said the market will be Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m. at the corner of Whittaker and Merchant streets.

Smock said this year, the NBBA has partnered with The Collective, a La Porte, Indiana-based firm that will help increase vendor participation and visitors.

The council also approved amendments to the 2024 fiscal year budget. Watson explained that, in order to comply with Michigan law, adjustments have to be made to adjust for differences in expected and actual costs throughout the year.

A full list of fees for city services will soon be available on the city website. The council approved a master fee schedule to give the public a consolidated list of costs. Watson said additional fees will need to be listed as additional fees are finalized.

Efforts to prevent birds from nesting and roosting in the ceiling of the Oselka Park pavilion continue. The city previously awarded a contract for soffit work to R. Yoder Construction, but Watson said the firm had asked to increase the contract to 2024 construction costs. Instead, the council rescinded the $149,247 contract and awarded a contract to McGuire's Construction for $138,348.

Humphrey called the costs "mind-blowing" but said he did not see any other recourse to deterring birds and cast the lone dissenting vote out of what he called "begrudging protest."

The council also approved the purchase of a 2021 Chevy Equinox from the Enterprise purchase plan in the amount of $10,599.90, plus fees not to exceed $500. Watson told the council the Kelly Blue Book value for the vehicle is over $17,000.

On Watson's recommendation, the council ok'd the purchase of a generator from Martell Electric in the amount of $33,392.36. Watson said the generator will protect the city from data loss or damaged equipment in the event of a power outage, as well as ensure workplace safety.

Councilmember Vance Price noted the city had experienced few outages but he felt the system was still a good precaution. Councilmember Mark Robertson dissented, while Humphrey voted in favor while stating he didn't like the cost.

The council unanimously appointed Diane Pyshos and Mike Schimanski to the DDA.

In order to comply with FEMA regulations, the council approved an amendment to Chapter 5, Article 6, Section 5-17 of the Code of Ordinances to update Flood Insurance Study maps.

New Buffalo Art Gallery's request for a redevelopment liquor license received the council's support. Watson explained when there are no standard liquor licenses available, Michigan law allows businesses to apply for a non-transferable redevelopment license if it meets certain criteria, including location in a business district or similar zone. The gallery, located at 137 N. Whittaker Street, is in the business district.

The council discussed plans for the beach development. Humphrey said the city needs to determine if additional parking spaces are warranted, and the current lack of physical barriers means the city still has liability issues during beach closings.

He suggested to the rest of the council the city relocate the LED informational sign, stating it needs to be more visible to visitors. The council did not determine a new location and Watson said options needed to be considered.

Watson also informed the council that recent soundings showed the harbor will need to be dredged this spring. He said the emergency dredging permit was still valid, allowing for work to start soon.

Prior to adjournment, Price said Watson's contract is nearly at its end and the council needs to plan an evaluation and discuss a new contract.

Marquette Greenway Phase One construction to commence

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Ground will soon be broken on a nonmotorized path that will stretch from Chicago to New Buffalo.

Members of the New Buffalo Township Board adopted a resolution for the submission of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for funding Phase Two of the Michigan portion Marquette Greenway at their Monday, March 18, meeting.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said that they're asking for $300,000 in additional funding.

Marcy Hamiltion, executive director/senior planner with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC), said that there'll be a Phase One groundbreaking at a future trailhead site that will be built at Mechanic and Smith streets at 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 3.

Phase One will be from downtown New Buffalo at the trailhead to the entrance at Grand Beach Road, where the railroad tracks go over. Construction is anticipated to be completed this year.

Phase Two will go from the intersection of Grand Beach Road and U.S. Highway 12 down to the state line along Grand Beach Road between Amtrak and the road until cyclists get down to Woodcrest. The non motorized path will then cut over to the lakeside of Grand Beach Road and continue into Indiana.

Regarding Phase Two, Hamilition said money has been secured through a federal Rebuilding America's Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant through the SWMPC's sister agency, the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission. The Trust Fund will match the federal money.

URB Cannabis in New Buffalo Township

An outdoor assembly permit for URB Cannabis Dispensary for a grand opening customer appreciation day at 11539 O'Brien Court from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 20, was approved.

Board members also approved extra hours for Jonathan Jackubowski, the townhsip's code enforcement officer, for the event at the rate of pay of $30 per hour.

Paul Roumaya, one of the owners of URB, said that they have permission to use the lot of the former Casino and Pizzeria. They're currently working with the O'Briens on obtaining additional parking from the lot across the street.

The event would run on 420 Day, which Roumaya described as the "Black Friday of Cannabis."

The event would feature a tent, with vendors from different brands giving away items such as hats and T-shirts, and a deejay and food truck. URB would also be running special deals.

Roumaya said that they're willing to pay for a sheriff to be on duty that day. There would also be four guaranteed full-time armed security guards on location, as well as vested employees who would be directing the traffic.

"We are going to try everything in our power to make sure there's no consumption, to make sure (there's) traffic control - we're bringing extra security,making sure there's no issues but, as you know, things get out on control and I do not want that to affect me negatively," Roumaya said.

Heit said that this would be the first such event in the township.

"We'd like to see how this goes," she said.

URB is the first adult-use marijuana retail establishment that was granted a final approval for special land use (SLU) by the township board.

At Monday's meeting, the board also gave final approval for an SLU to Bloomery Cannabis New Buffalo to operate an adult-use marijuana establishment at 11429 O'Brien Court.

Board members adopted two resolutions regarding the water and sewer extension special assessment district.

Matt Davis, a project manager with Wightman, said that both resolutions are part of the process of adopting an assessment roll to pay for the project, which involves extending the water and sewer along U.S. 12 from Interstate 94 to Exit Four over to Hoder Road.

In October, the board accepted the petitions, which were over 51%, that were circulated by property owners, and authorized Wightman and Associates to move forward with developing the project's plans, which have been bid out, and specifications.

Board members adopted a resolution confirming the estimated cost of the project on the special assessment roll, as well as another one that sets the date for a public hearing on it, which will be 4 p.m. Monday, April 15.

Board members also accepted a bid from Payjay, Inc. in the amount of $1,396,292.50 for the water and sewer extension.

A proposal from Krueggel Lawton for auditing services for $23,000 for 2024, $23,500 for 2025 and $24,00 for 2026 was approved.

Board members approved fire cadet Audrey Proctor, who turned 18, as a non-certified firefighter and to increase her pay to the non certified pay rate effective March 1.

A step increase to the code enforcement officer's rate in pay to $28 per hour for 35 hours per week was approved.

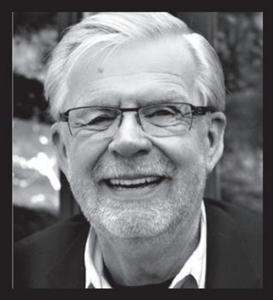
The purchase of a new Rosenbauer fire truck for the fire department for $1,264,642 from Emergency Vehicles Plus was approved.

Board members adopted a resolution that requests funds from the office of U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg for capital improvements at the sewer plant for the Galien River Sanitary Sewer District (GRSD). Heit added that Chikaming and Lake townships and the cities of Bridgman and New Buffalo will also be considering the resolution.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Time marches on.

While no games are currently being played in Major League Baseball or the National Football League, plenty is going on that will determine what will happen when the games do begin. Also, today is selection Sunday, the day that the NCAA basketball tournament teams are chosen. March Madness begins this week and productivity across the nation will take a hit as people fill out their brackets and watch and listen to college basketball's premier event.

Let's start with baseball. The White Sox made some nice moves and if they can find some pitching during the season, they might be a lot better than people think. They should have plenty of youngsters making their debuts which will make them fun to watch. The Cubs new manager is making his presence felt and after re-signing Cody Bellinger, optimism reigns. Besides the new manager, the Cubs have a new starting pitcher, closer, and a bunch of quality youngsters that will make their way to the majors as needed this season. It's an exciting time for the Cubs and their fans, and I'm presuming that they will be participating in the playoffs this year and for years to come.

The big news in the National Football League this week was the Chicago Bears trading of their quarterback, Justin Fields. I must admit that I had grown very fond of Fields ability and athleticism, but the fact that the Bears were only able to land a sixth round draft choice in return for him made me wonder. It was only later that I heard the Bears had multiple offers for Fields but chose to honor their commitment by doing what was best for him. He wanted to go to Pittsburgh, so the Bears sent him to Pittsburgh. I truly admire the Bears general manager Ryan Poles for keeping his word, even if it cost the Bears a round or two in this years draft. Having principled people leading your franchise is a blessing, as long as they are outstanding at their jobs like I believe Ryan Poles is.With newly acquired Keenan Allen, Gerald Everett, and DeAndre Swift, and terrific holdovers D.J. Moore and Cole Kmet to compliment a rookie quarterback, presumably Caleb Williams, the Bears offense is potentially the best I can remember, and the defense looks like it will be top notch too. Will this be the year the Bears finally begin to beat the Packers and make the playoffs?

The road to the NCAA mens college basketball championship begins this week with 68 teams participating. Local teams like Michigan State, Purdue, Northwestern, and The University of Illinois will be attempting to unseat defending champion Connecticut and, as always, the games will be exciting and hotly contested. The girls tournament will also be getting under way and watching Caitlin Clark compete against Angel Reese will be must see tv.

Norm McDonald said "Why do dogs race to the door when the doorbell rings? It's almost never for them."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

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* EPIC-MRA 2011

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This newspaper supports your right to know.

Treat a work of art like a prince: let it speak to you first. *— Arthur Schopenhauer*

Celebrating the 'wearing of the green' at annual corned beef-off

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

One didn't have to declare themselves to be Irish to gain entry to David's Delicatessen's 14th annual Corned Beef–off, which took place on St. Patrick's Day Sunday, March 17.

Nevertheless, many reveled in the wearing of the green - green, shamrock-spotted suits; plaid, green hats and shiny shamrock necklaces that were hanging from their necks.

A steady line of guests streamed in and out of the New Buffalo delicatessen throughout the afternoon. Once they'd had their fill of corned beef, guests cast their vote for their favorite purveyor. This year, the winner was cook Prince George from New Buffalo who, per Facebook, had the "revolutionary idea of dumping pickle juice and a bunch of Colman's mustard in the brine."

To wash down their meals, The False Front was pouring from their collection of over 90 Irish whiskeys.

This year's line-up of 17 purveyors came from across the country, from Chicago to as far away as New York.

Joe Lindsay, who co-owns David's with his wife, Emma Brewster, said that he was pleased that one of the purveyors, Smoking Goose out of Indianapolis, had their "amazing" brisket, which he said comes from the cow's chest.

The event is a family affair: Lindsay, who was doling out samples of corned beef, said that his daughter, 2-year-old Jane, had been helping all week. Brewster was mingling with customers with their newborn daughter, Rosemaryann, in tow.

"The joke has been 'We do have a new baby - I've been too busy cooking and slicing so I'm not aware she's there but I'm told that she is," Lindsay said.

For the second year in a row, proceeds from this year's event went to Neighbor by Neighbor, a nonprofit resource for low-income neighbors in southwest Berrien County.

Executive director Keri Haskins said that Neighbor by Neighbor has been seeing a lot of homeless people come in who are looking for shelter.

"That can be tough in our area because we have very limited affordable housing," she said.

Haskins added that a lot of people have been stopping by their food and hygiene pantry. The area has also been seeing several utility bills and electricity and water shut offs.

In addition to assisting clients directly, Neighbor by Neighbor has also been referring them to other agencies that can help them with the necessary services.

Funds raised from the corned beef-off will surely help, though, along with a challenge from The Pokagon Fund, one of their huge supporters.

"They've given us a challenge to do a grant match so if we can raise $60,000 they'll match that - so we're in the process of doing that and the funds that are donated today will help with that," Haskins said.

The second annual Founder's Day Brunch, which will honor founders of Neighbor by Neighbor, is June 22, with details on tickets and sponsorships forthcoming.

David's co-owner Joe Lindsay dole out corned beef to the hungry crowd

Customers line up outside David's for corned beef

Emily Delfiandra celebrates with Sage

Warming up by the fire outside of David's

Dishing out corned beef to the hungry crowd

Customers crowd David's for the corned beef-off

Ryan Welsh revels in the wearing of the green with Stephen Donnelly and Henry

Chris Walsh, Scott Ferguson and Ricco and Joyce Chapla enjoy the wearing of the green

BLOSSOMTIME PAGEANT TICKETS ON SALE; PEOPLE'S CHOICE VOTING OPEN

The Blossomtime Festival is excited to announce that the 2024 Miss Blossomtime and Mr. Blossomtime Pageant/Showcase of Queens is back.

This year's theme, "Blossomtime. . .Where Every Day is a Holiday," has inspired two wonderful evenings of entertainment, music and glamor. Hosting the evening festivities for the Blossomtime Festival will be Lainie Lu Von Behren, a former Miss Blossomtime and Phil McDonald, AD to Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Schools, for the two-day show. The 2023 Mr. Blossomtime, Karl Krause, will be crowning the 27th Mr. Blossomtime at the Mr. Blossomtime and Showcase of Queens Pageant at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 14. General admission tickets are $40. Limited Premier Seating tickets are available for both nights at $45 each. All community queens and community kings representatives will compete in three different categories.

The 2023 Miss Blossomtime, Lauren Vegter, will be crowning our 91st Miss Blossomtime at the Miss Blossomtime Pageant the following evening at 7 p.m. Monday, April 15. General admission tickets are $40. Limited Premier Seating tickets available at $45 each and the program price for both evenings will be $5.

The Mr. Blossomtime Pageant/Showcase of Queens and Miss Blossomtime pageants are held at the Lake Michigan College, Mendel Center Mainstage and is guaranteed to be two wonderful evenings with 21 community queens and 22 community kings vying for the titles of Miss and Mr. Blossomtime and their respective royalty courts. To purchase tickets in advance, call the Blossomtime office at 269-982-8016 or stop by at 2330 S. Cleveland Avenue in St. Joseph. Ticket availability is limited and may not be available at the door.

Vote is now open for your favorite Community Queen and King for the People's Choice at www.blossomtimevote.com. Fifteen percent of the overall total will be awarded to the new People's Choice Queen and King for a scholarship. The 2023 People's Choice scholarship winners were Miss Three Oaks/River Valley Ellie Lumley and Mr. Stevensville Noah Willemin.

Voting closes at 5 p.m. Monday, April 15. —

STAFF REPORTS

Ground broken for new train station apartment tower

BY STAN MADDUX

A ground breaking has been held for a 12 story tower to contain 220 apartments beside the new South Shore Railroad commuter line train station in Michigan City.

Flaherty & Collins Properties is the developer of what's called The Franklin at 11th Street Station in the city's Uptown Arts District.

A 549 space parking garage beside the tower with electric vehicle charging stations will also go up on the 1.5 acre site at 11th and Franklin streets.

The parking garage will be available to tenants and riders before and after they step off the trains.

Other planned amenities include a heated swim/spa with an adjacent outdoor movie lounge, an outdoor rooftop sky lounge providing scenic views of Lake Michigan, courtyard grilling decks and fire pits and a dog park.

The apartments will have LED lighting, quartz countertops, stainless steel appliances, full size washer and dryer and private balconies on most units.

After the March 14 groundbreaking, David Flaherty, co-owner of the Indianapolis based development firm, said monthly rent has not been set but should begin at about $1,500.

Sixty eight percent of the units will have one bedroom, while 20% will be two bedroom units.

What's left will be mostly studio apartments, with a handful of three bedroom units.

The average size of the apartments will be close to 800 square feet.

Flaherty said the main level will be available for retail and other commercial establishments, like a restaurant or coffee shop.

He expects to draw mostly young professionals and empty nesters to the $101 million development on the site of the old South Shore commuter line train station, which was torn down.

"We're happy to have anybody. We do a lot of these types of developments and the reality is that's who we get," he said.

Flaherty said a lot of the residents will likely come from Chicago to take advantage of the nearly completed South Shore commuter line double track from Gary to Michigan City.

The addition of a second line is expected to reduce travel times in a train from Michigan City to Chicago by about 30 minutes.

Flaherty said he also expects to attract some Michigan City residents who want to stay but don't have much to choose from here in terms of an upgrade in their housing.

Construction is expected to be completed for tenants to start moving in by the fall of 2025.

Flaherty said he expects to have about 300 employees at the facility, which will generate over $800,000 in annual real estate taxes on a parcel currently generating little, if any, property tax revenue.

In September, a ground breaking was held for a 14 story hotel tower and 12 story condominium tower about a half mile away on U.S. 12.

So far, there's been no actual construction on that site.

Michigan City Mayor Angie Nelson Deuitch said a half dozen other developers have expressed interest in Michigan City because of the increase in new residents and visitors quicker travel by train is expected to bring.

Trains are expected to start running between Michigan City and Gary on the double track in May.

"This is only the beginning of something great," she said.

Children and parents are enamored by the television room

Mrs. Gloop (Addy Lamport) is led away by the Oompa Loompas

The cast closes out the show in song

The cast sings Golden Ticket

Charlie (Henry Gadiel) searches for a golden ticket in his chocolate bar

Children and their parents explore the chocolate factory

The Oompa Loompas make an appearance

Charlie (Henry Gadiel) and Mrs. Bucket (Riley Castle-Brow) dance to Think Positive

The children and parents celebrate their golden tickets

Phineous Trout (Kate Welsh) interviews Violet (Deonna McGrew) and Mrs. Beauregarde (Bianca Illescas-Villa)

Veruca Salt (Ellen Ripley) sings I Want It Now

The Oompa Loompas sing their song for Mike Teavee (Charlie Hart)

Candy dreams come alive during 'Willy Wonka'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Guests to the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center had their eyes opened to a world of "pure imagination" and "candy dreams" during the New Buffalo High School Drama Club's performance of "Willy Wonka" Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 15-17.

Guests were led through a journey of the chocolate factory by Willy Wonka, who was portrayed by Libby Lamport. A group of lucky children, who had managed to grab the coveted golden ticket in their candy bars, and their parents also went along for their journey, while encountering an assortment of mishaps and tests of character along the way.

The musical was directed by Chris Beushausen, with Amanda Tossetti, Ellen Ripley and Harlow Allee serving as choreographers. Stage manager was Renina Levova.

Charlie (Henry Gadiel) and Mrs. Bucket (Riley Castle-Brow) celebrate with Grandpa Joe (Aaron Illescas-Villa)

The cast closes out the show with a song and dance number

Veruca Salt (Ellen Ripley) declares her desires in I Want It Now

Oompa Loompas sing their song for Violet Beaugarde (Deonna McGrew) after she transforms into a blueberry

The Oompa Loompas sing their song for Augutus Gloop (Han Tannehill)

In the squirrel room at the chocolate factory

Violet Beaugarde (Deonna McGrew) is transfixed on the magical gum in the hands of Willy Wonka (Libby Lamport)

Charlie (Henry Gadiel) searches for a golden ticket in his candy bar

Children greet Willy Wonka (Libby Lamport)

Wonka takes the children on a journey during There's No Knowing

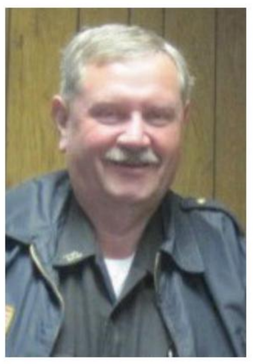
Willy Wonka (Libby Lamport) sings At the Gates

The children and their parents get a lay of the land at the chocolate factory

OBITUARIES

Dennis Elbert "Chief" "The Bull" "Denny" Buller, Sr.

1954-2024



Dennis Elbert "Chief" "The Bull" "Denny" Buller, Sr., 69, of Three Oaks, died, Saturday, March 9, 2024, with his beloved puppy by his side.

His life began September 17, 1954, in Michigan City, Indiana, the fourth of five children born to Bert and Lillian "Ma Bull" Buller. He married Darleen K. Rohm May 26, 1983 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Dennis dedicated his life to serving and protecting others. He retired from the Berrien County Sherriff's Department as a Detective Sargeant where he served for twenty-six years. He then became the Chief of Police for Three Oaks for many years. He also served for multiple police departments in Southwest Berrien County. He also served as a volunteer firefighter for Three Oaks. He enjoyed cooking which he started when he was a teenager. He loved hunting, collecting, and entertaining friends and family. He never knew a stranger. Dennis was past president for the Football Booster for River Valley as well as a past president of the FOP Lodge 96. He also coached Three Oaks Little League for many years.

Dennis will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by spouse, Darleen K. Buller of Three Oaks; his beloved Beagle, Jill; one daughter, Elia (Davide) Gambino of Galien; four sons, Jeremy (Sarah) Brault of St. Joseph, Brian Buller of Three Oaks, Dennis E. (Holly) Buller, Jr. of Three Oaks, Devon Guthrie of Three Oaks; twelve beloved grandchildren; one sister, Ann (Daryl) Spencer of Baroda; one brother, Albert (Janet) Buller of Battle Creek; one sister-in-law, Yolanda Buller of Battle Creek; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Robert "Bob" Buller and infant brother, Delbert Buller.

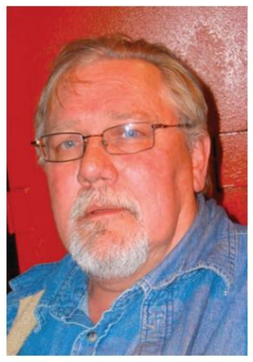
Family and friends will gather for a Memorial Service at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 23, 2024 in Calvary Church, 602 North Elm Street, Three Oaks. A Celebration of Life will follow the service at 12:00 noon in the FOP Lodge 96, 2665 Niles Road, St. Joseph.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Dennis be made to the mental health of first responders, in care of Wagner Family Funerals, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks, Michigan 49128.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online: www.wagnercares.com.

James Allen Gearhart

1959-2024



James Allen Gearhart, 72, of Three Oaks, died, Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

His life began March 16, 1952 in La Porte County, Indiana, the youngest of two boys born to Lloyd and Clora "Lora" Gearhart.

Jim was a very fun-loving father and grandfather. Not a conversation would pass without him telling a joke or funny story. He was very encouraging, supportive, and saw the best in everyone. His children will always remember that he was a hard worker and provider in building their homes and making sure that their needs were met. Throughout Jim's many losses, his heart never turned bitter, and he had hope in his Savior. He found peace and comfort visiting with his children and grandchildren. He enjoyed making birthdays special, always bringing joy and laughter. He imparted wisdom by sharing his skills and knowledge with his family. Jim was always looking out for the safety of the ones he loved. The skill that he taught, and his family will cherish, was his love for hunting morel mushrooms.

Jim will be missed by family, and friends. He is survived by one daughter, Katie (Nick) Warner of Kalamazoo; two sons, Chris (Adina) Gearhart of Buchanan, Jesse Gearhart of Three Oaks; six grandchildren, Jonathan, Caitlin, Haley, David, Maddison, Isla; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Harold Gearhart.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online: www.wagnercares.com.

Barbara Ann Smith

1939-2024

Barbara Ann Smith, 84, of Three Oaks, died peacefully Saturday, March 16, 2024.

Her life began July 24, 1939, in Chicago, Illinois, the middle of three children born to Frank and Edna Krossovitch. She married Clyde Smith June 10, 1957, in Three Oaks, Michigan. After forty-eight years of marriage, he preceded her in death February 15, 2005.

Barbara's family meant everything to her. She cherished spending as much time as possible with her grandchildren. In her spare time, she was an avid reader, completing almost three books a week. She was an amazing gardener whose favorites were flowers and roses. She had and cared for many gardens. Barbara enjoyed sharing her labor of love by feeding friends and neighbors from her vegetable and fruit stand. She had a plethora of jobs which she enjoyed, but first and foremost, she was a housewife. She picked apples for Williams Orchard, sorted magazines for Publishers News, and was an attendant for Three Oaks Laundromat. Barbara happily retired in 1991. She adored animals, and if she had her way, she would adopt every stray she came across.

Barbara will be greatly missed by family and friends. She leaves to mourn her passing and carry on her legacy three daughters, Debbie (Gary) Sharp, Sandy (Dan) Davis, both of Michigan City, Indiana and Lori (Glen) Pastryk of Buchanan; one son, Curtis (MaryAnn) Smith of Three Oaks; nine grandchildren; twenty great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren; one sister, Carolyn (Jake) Drenth of Windfield, Illinois; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; two grandchildren, Adam Brashear, Sam Sharp; one brother, Ogden Krossovitch; and sister-in-law, Doris Krossovitch.

Family and friends will gather Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m.

(Michigan Time) in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. A funeral service will be held at 12:00 noon (Michigan Time) Friday, March 22, 2024 in the funeral home with an hour of visitation prior to the service, starting at 11:00 a.m. (Michigan Time).

Barbara will be laid to rest with her beloved husband in Posey Chapel Cemetery, La Porte, Indiana.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online: www.wagnercares.com.

Mayor critical of township for dispensary explosion

BY STAN MADDUX

New Buffalo Mayor John Humphrey said the township could have prevented the explosion of marijuana dispensaries had they acted responsibly from the start.

New Buffalo Township was on its way to having close to 30 or more dispensaries when the moratorium was approved by the township board last week.

A number of dispensaries are already operating along Michigan 239 in the area of Interstate 94.

More cannabis stores are on their way along that stretch of highway and U.S. 12 because the applications from those property owners were approved before the moratorium.

Humphrey was critical of the township for opening the door "irresponsibly" to the dispensary explosion, which could break a state record for the number of marijuana shops held now by Detroit.

At the beginning, Humphrey said the township board through zoning restrictions should have limited the number of sites marijuana dispensaries could operate.

"I think it's ridiculous they're even in this situation. If they didn't expect this then they should have done their research on what they were expecting," he said.

Humphrey said his primary concern is the impact such a high volume of dispensaries could have on public safety in the city.

He said the city is busy enough with public safety, especially during the summer tourism season, without having to deal with the potential negative consequences from having "this intense concentration of marijuana dispensaries" outside the municipal boundaries.

"Now we have to worry about people who want to stop by one of these places then maybe take the ride down to the beach to illegally enjoy their purchase. It's just more stuff we have to manage. I just wish it was handled better," he said.

The use of marijuana in public is prohibited under state law.

Marijuana dispensaries remain illegal in the city limits of New Buffalo under a state law giving local governments the option to allow or not allow them within their jurisdictions.

Humphrey said he and a majority of city council members voted not to allow them out of fear the city's zoning ordinance would have been challenged in court as being too restrictive by people wanting to operate dispensaries here.

Marijuana dispensaries would have been limited under the zoning to just a handful of locations in the city had the council decided to open the door to cannabis shops.

"It's more like you give an inch and they want to take a mile type thing. I wasn't interested in getting involved in that and I don't think the city residents were either. I'm glad that we voted no," he said.

Township officials want to take a second look at their ordinance governing dispensaries and other data before deciding whether to lift or leave the moratorium in place.

Humphrey said he doesn't believe the moratorium will do any good because of the sheer number of dispensary applications approved by the township board prior to the cap.

He said the township for a couple of years will benefit from the collection of taxes on marijuana sold at the dispensaries; however, he feels some of those proceeds will have to go toward the cost of increased public safety in areas like traffic control from the influx of motorists frequenting the shops

Eventually, Humphrey said many of the stores will likely go out of business from diminished returns cause by local market saturation.

"They're all not going to survive," he said.

In the meantime, Humphrey said the minimum but high number of approved applications for dispensaries in the township has already been established and the market will determine if more go up if the moratorium is lifted.

"It's going to play out the way it's going to play out and people that live here are going to have to deal with the consequences of it," he said.

Tax credits for New York Blower expansion

A La Porte manufacturing firm is moving forward on plans to spend $5 million on a new building to house its professional office staff now in separate facilities on the grounds.

As an incentive, New York Blower with a local workforce of just over 200 was granted tax credits from the city on the new construction.

La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership Executive Director Bert Cook said offices for professional staff members are currently housed in several buildings that make up the company at 171 Factory Street.

The company's footprint extends to nearby Thomas Rose Industrial Park.

"Ultimately, it will kind of bring all of their professional staff under one roof," Cook said.

New York Blower, which opened a fifth U.S. manufacturing plant in 2022, has been a maker of catalog and industrial custom fans, blowers and ventilation systems since 1889.

The company has had a branch in La Porte for 105 years.

There will be a net 65% annual savings for the company on property taxes from the new construction over a 10 year period under a resolution approved unanimously by the city council Monday, March 18

Cook said the company must pay the remaining 35% of its yearly savings to the city's Urban Enterprise Association in exchange for the tax credits.

Under a longstanding program, those monies are reinvested by the UEA into areas like downtown to help building owners pay for façade improvements on their structures.

The company also intends to beautify a roughly two acre site once an active part of the New York Blower operation near the entrance to the firm at Factory and Boston streets.

New York Blower Executive Vice President of Operations Scott Hamilton said a greenspace, including shrubs and flowers, will be created where an old industrial type building stood until it was demolished a few years ago.

He said the grounds made to reflect in some way the company's heritage in La Porte will be available for use by employees and, generally, to the public.

"It's just been kind of an industrial, old school look for a long time. We think beautifying that corner will make a big difference," he said.

Mayor Tom Dermody called New York Blower one of the city's "cornerstone employers" and a "true partner" of the community.

The company has hosted welding classes and used some of its employees as instructors since the program started in November 2022.

The classes open to adults and high school students were created through a partnership with Ivy Tech to meet demand by local employers.

"Employers in our area have been telling us that's a skill they really needed," said Erik Nelson, workforce development coordinator for LEAP.

Nelson said classes for adults run for about six weeks, while students who are taught separately attend throughout the school year.

He said Howmet Corporation became a partner in January by providing equipment and materials for teaching a certain type of welding that's required at its nearby aerospace parts making plant.

"We just so appreciate all they do to prepare our future workforce and investment in the city," Dermody said. — stan Maddux

Man killed after trip to gas station

BY STAN MADDUX

A man was killed in a single-vehicle crash in La Porte County near the Michigan state line early Monday, March 18.

Michael Williams, 43, was pronounced dead at the scene, according to La Porte County Coroner Lynn Swanson.

Swanson said Williams lived about a mile or so west from where the crashed occurred.

According to La Porte County Police, Williams was eastbound on 1000 North in a 2012 Land Rover when he veered right into a ditch and continued before crashing into several trees near Stateline Blueberries.

Police said the vehicle was found overturned and buried under tree limbs.

The road was wet from a fresh accumulation of light snow on the ground, police said.

Swanson said a toxicology test of a blood sample taken from the victim, which is standard procedure in any fatal motor vehicle crash, will determine if alcohol or drugs were involved in the accident.

It could take a few weeks before the results of the blood test come in, she said.

Swanson said she was told by family members that Williams left about 2 a.m. to go to a gas station and the crash happened while he was returning home.

PRESENTATION AT NEW BUFFALO LIBRARY TO EXAMINE RISE AND FALL OF ELVIS PRESLEY

A 6 p.m. presentation Tuesday, April 2, at the New Buffalo Township Library will chronicle the rise and fall of America's original rock star, Elvis Presley.

Blessed with an amazing voice, good looks and gyrations that drove fans wild, Presley changed the course of American music and made rock and roll controversial. But Elvis spent money as fast as he made it, refused to confront a manager who put him in scores of mediocre films and fell victim to drug abuse.

Since his death in 1977, Presley has been resurrected. Millions of fans have flocked to Graceland, watched movies about his life and purchased all sorts of Elvis memorabilia. For a while after his death, some fans reported seeing him, fueling a rumor that the King was still alive.

Tim Moore, a Lake Michigan College history teacher and a frequent and popular speaker at the library's Community Forum programs, will lead the April 2 presentation. All are welcome and there is no charge to attend.

The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo, Mich.

The Community Forum series is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library.

— STAFF REPORTS

Grade school kids given lessons on farming

BY STAN MADDUX

Fourth graders throughout La Porte County are learning a thing or two about where food comes from and the work required to get it to their dinner tables.

Close to 1,000 students will have attended Ag Days by the time the event that opened Wednesday morning concludes Thursday afternoon at the La Porte County Fairgrounds.

Children from each school visit 12 stations manned by volunteer instructors touching on things like beef, dairy cows, farm machinery, row crops, rabbits and chickens.

During a question and answer session, one boy from Kingsbury Elementary School asked if chocolate milk comes from a chocolate cow.

Instructor Frank Minich, a fourth generation dairy farmer near Kingsbury, explained flavorings like chocolate are added to milk from a cow at processing plants before placed into containers for sale at grocery stores.

"That's a pretty common question. It doesn't matter what color the cow is. All of the milk that comes out is white milk," he said.

He also provided facts such as a cow drinks 40 to 60 gallons of water a day and, depending on certain factors, gives about 10 gallons of milk over a 24 hour period.

Instructor Paul Herrold talked about corn and how it's even used to make ethanol to mix with gasoline for a cleaner burning fuel.

Herrold, who raises about 3,000 acres of corn and soybeans in the Westville and Wanatah areas, said a lot of corn harvested from fields is also used to feed farm animals before they're processed for human consumption.

"Corn is high in energy. When you give it to animals, they grow very quickly," he said.

Adult 4-H volunteer, Schasta Antrim of La Porte told the children rabbits give birth about a month after conception and have 28 teeth.

Antrim, 26, showed rabbits while in 4-H as a youth and, currently, her family has over 20 rabbits used for meat and for her younger siblings now in 4-H to show.

She said interacting with the kids and getting them excited about learning is what she likes most about being an Ag Days instructor.

"When they start answering my questions and they have such confidence when they tell me the correct answer back, it's exciting to see their faces just glow. Of course, they can't wait to pet the animals," she said.

Some of the children petted live animals like a chicken and a rabbit during the presentations or while leaving for another station.

Megan Bowman, a fourth grade teacher at Coolspring Elementary School in Michigan City, said it was her first time having a class at Ag Days.

She particularly liked her students thrilled reaction to learning the ketchup they have at home is made from tomatoes grown in the fields, including some locally.

"It's been really educational and we're having a blast," she said.

Ag Days is sponsored by La Porte County Farm Bureau and La Porte County Row Crop Food Producers with help from Purdue Extension.

Westville area farmer Mark Parkman, who's president of La Porte County Farm Bureau, said another purpose of the event is to promote the 4-H youth program.

Despite popular belief, Parkman said owning livestock is not required to enroll because there's many offerings for children in 4-H ranging from cooking to photography and small engine repair aside from showing farm animals.

"There's something in 4-H for everybody," he said.

HOROSCOPE

MARCH 21-27, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

It is time to lay that sword to rest and relax a little. When you make time to hang with friends and be around people, the right confidant and partner will present themselves. Be sure to engage in social activities that honor the struggles people endured and use laughter to heal wounds.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

There is a good possibility you will reconnect with a past person, that you may have had problems with, this week. Even if you don't fully resolve issues, know that it is an opportunity to get closure on some painful memories and move away from needing any sort of revenge or restitution.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

There will be a lot of laughter and comradery with friends this week and you can expect to end up at some unusual places when going out with them. The important thing is to stay in a place of integrity no matter how strange things get. Avoid breaking the code of ethics you have set for yourself.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Sometimes when you are trying to be serious and to the point, other people just cannot stop fooling around and this will be one of those times. Rather than getting worked up perhaps, it would be better to just get lost in the crowd and save that uniqueness for yourself and your own home.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Use laughter and a light hearted attitude when dealing with those stormy types of people. If there are differences to settle or restitution is to be made, let the past set the precedence. Let the battles be won and let the peacetime begin, as the support and resources will be flowing in.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Be aware that accidents really do happen close to home and the most dangerous room is the bathroom. So, please pay attention this week, as the planets are aligning in a way where the improbable will be probable and what you didn't want to happen just might. Interesting week ahead, grasshopper.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Make time for romance and partnership this week. Be unpredictable and try new things with people. Step out of the comfort zone you have gotten into and show a more playful side with the people you care about. This is a time to get close and let people see the real charmer that you are.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

When it comes to chores and housework this week, try to take things lightly. Slow down and enjoy your space. Create that place where you can retreat and escape from the outside world. Reach out to those you love and make time for enjoying some one-on-one time. Yes, that means candlelight.

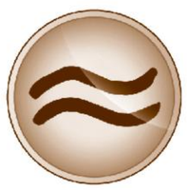
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You will be blessed with a divine timing this week. Use it to its fullest by settling any long-standing family issues. There is opportunity to bring opposing sides into a positive alignment now. Encourage others to let the past go and open their hearts to communicating in a humble way.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Expect some unexpected visitors to le chateau de la chevre this week. Break out the finest and get ready to laugh, as the comedians will be entering the building. Know that you may be holding a few grudges with one or more of them but this is your opportunity to make peace.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Your presence and mannerisms may be the catalyst to big changes for other people. You have a way of pointing out the unpredictable and spontaneous nature of social situations to people who tend to be clueless, and while this may seem like a good thing, it can be tough on the naïve types.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

There is a part of you that may be a little volatile this week and you may upset some of the things you hold dear. Be cautious when expressing your anger or disappointment and be sure to use humor and a light hearted attitude when the storm clouds roll in. Peace may mean going alone this week.

A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval.
— Mark Twain

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		6		4		3		
	7			6		2	4	
		3		7		1		
					3	7		
	2							
					1			
	5	4						2
	3		6	8				5
	8					4	3	

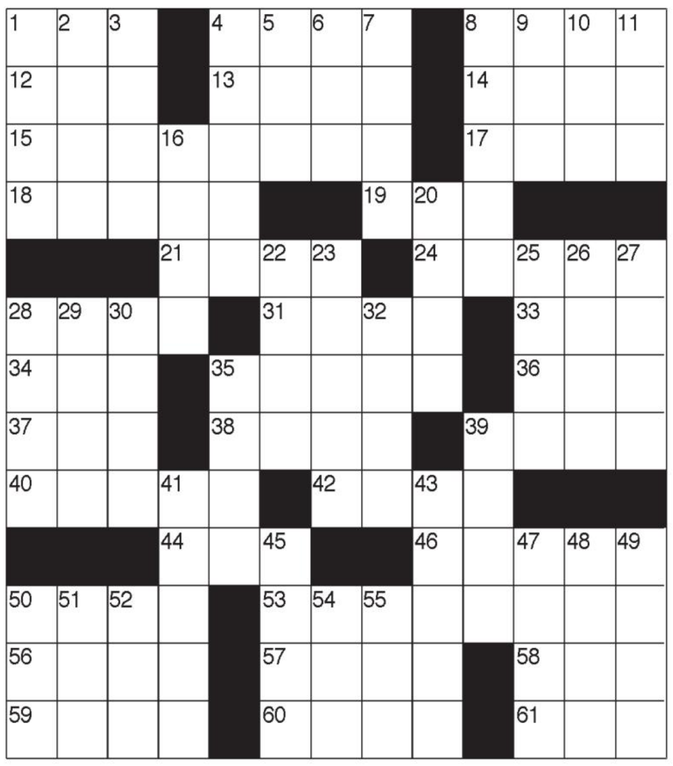
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Gentle blow
4 Target
8 Rhinoceros beetle
12 I (Ger.)
13 Hindustani language
14 Seed of cereal
15 Guessing game
17 Gash
18 Repeat
19 Narrowest part of the Malay
21 Seaport in W. Norway
24 Glow
28 Exclamations of doubt
31 Eight (comb. form)
33 Kilovolt-ampere (abbr.)
34 Eng. cathedral city
35 Flowering plant
36 Adjective-forming (suf.)
37 Mulberry of India
38 Niger-Congo language
39 Encircle
40 Falls
42 Lose liquid
44 Isaiah (abbr.)
46 Mourning poem
50 King of Judah
53 Gaming place
56 Noted psychiatrist
57 Exclamation (abbr.)
58 Alkali
59 Crude metals
60 Cushitic lang.
61 Social Security Act (abbr.)

DOWN

1 Bitter (pref.)
2 Hurt
3 Asian desert
4 Fertilizer
5 US military fort
6 Fruit drink
7 Long tooth
8 Fur seal
9 Be indisposed
10 Nanocurie (abbr.)
11 Extract
16 Chafes
20 Slugger's stats
22 Mine incline
23 Base eight
25 From Oklahoma
26 Ellipse
27 Germinated barley
28 Bean
29 Winglike
30 Wood (pref.)
32 Air
35 Maiden
39 Blackletter (abbr.)
41 Metallic sounds
43 One of the Harpies
45 Gorillas
47 Cupid
48 Proceeds
49 Young Men's Hebrew Assn. (abbr.)
50 SW Arizona town
51 Wall (Fr.)
52 Same
54 Oxygen (pref.)
55 Exclamation



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PUBLIC NOTICES

PRE-KINDERGARTEN, KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP TAKING PLACE AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It's time to start planning for the 2024-25 school year at New Buffalo Area Schools

New Buffalo Area Schools is looking for students for the Bison Beginners Pre-Kindergarten program and kindergarten students for the 2024-2025 school year.

It is helpful for the district to know how many students there will be to begin planning for the 2024-2025 school year. If you believe your child will qualify for either the Bison Beginners pre-kindergarten program or for kindergarten, please contact the office at 269-469-6060 to ensure your student is on the enrollment list. You can also email the office staff at jwendel@nbas.org or rbowen@nbas.org. Please contact the office by Monday, April 8. You will need to include information such as your child's name, birth date, parent/guardian name, address, phone number and email address. The necessary paperwork/processes for completion will also be provided.

Parents/guardians that have children who will be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, and are residents of the New Buffalo Area School District are welcome to register their child for the Bison Beginners Pre-Kindergarten program. The program offers both half-day (a.m.) or full-day sessions. At this time, information is only being taken on students that currently reside within the school district. Enrollment is limited to 25 students for the Bison Beginners program.

Parents/guardians with students that will be 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2024, and are residents of the New Buffalo Area School District are welcome to register their child for the full-day kindergarten program. At this time, information is only being taken on students that currently reside within the school district.

Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students attending New Buffalo Elementary for the 2024-2025 school year will be able to have their mandatory hearing, vision and dental screening by the Berrien County Health Department from noon to 1 p.m. Monday, May 20, at New Buffalo Elementary.

If you need a hearing/vision/dental screening for your child who will be attending New Buffalo Elementary and you are not available May 20, please contact the Berrien County Health Department at 269-926-7121 extension 5293 to schedule an appointment or visit their website (www.berriencounty.org/634/Hearing-Vision-Screening).

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please submit your classified ad via email at classifieds@newbuffalotimes.com. *New Buffalo Times* can now accept online payments with a credit card or paypal. Go to our website, www.newbuffalotimes.com, and submit $14 per week for a classified ad of up to 160 characters. Deadline is Friday 5PM before the following week's publication.

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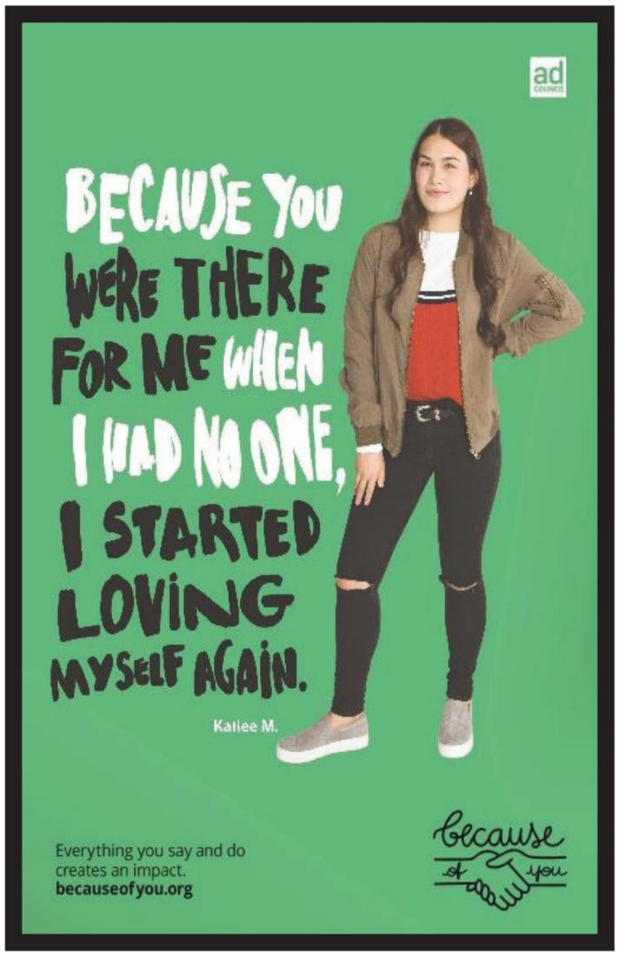
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A St. Patrick's Day tea at New Buffalo Township Library

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

After a three-year hiatus, tea cups were clinked and pinkies were raised during New Buffalo Township Library's annual tea, which was held Sunday, March 17.

Joan Putzke, a member of the library staff, who co-chaired the event with Kathy Martus, said that the tea was started by Courtney Kliss, former assistant to the library director.

"She loved everything tea and we would always have it in January because that's National Tea Month," she said.

Sandwich fixings were purchased from the library's budget. Staff members baked the sweet and savory treats that were displayed on a long table.

Shamrock flowers were the centerpieces at each table for this year's St. Patrick's Day-themed tea, along with large books and delicate teapots. Putzke had also sewed the 40 green plaid napkins.

"One year, everything was more contemporary, like our flowers were succulent plants - I think the first year we did it, it was more 1950s and then, in 2020, it was the garden party," Putzke, a self-proclaimed tea drinker herself, said.

Irma Reitz with Fay Bowen

Annmarie D'Anza displays her door prize of tea selections

Olivet and Andrea Bush, Taryn Schilling, Dot Siuda and Mary Ann Setnick enjoy tea time

Clare Hagan, Roseanna Mueller and Sandy Sporleder enjoy tea at the library

Treats galore filled one long table

Members of the New Buffalo Township Public Library staff celebrate their tea

Guests enjoy homemade treats

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I Believe in You *sung by Don Williams*

I don't believe in superstars/ Organic food or foreign cars

I don't believe the price of gold/ The certainty of growing old

That right is right and wrong is wrong/ That north and south can't get along

That east is east and west is west/ And bein' first is always best

But I believe in love, I believe in babies

I believe in mom and dad, And I believe in you.

Well, I don't believe that heaven waits/ for only those who congregate

I'd like to think of God as love/ He's down below, he's up above.

He's watchin' people everywhere/ He knows who does and doesn't care

And I am ordinary (gal) / Sometimes I wonder who I am

But I believe in love, I believe in music

I believe in magic, and I believe in you.

I know with all my certainty/ what's going on with you and me

Is a good thing, it's true - I believe in you.

I don't believe virginity is as common as it used to be

In working days and sleeping nights

That black is black and white is white

That Superman and Robin Hood are still alive in Hollywood.

That gasoline's in short supply, the rising cost of getting by

But I believe in love, I believe in old folks

I believe in children and I believe in you.

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